

What is claimed is:

1 1. A recording medium holder comprising:
2 a holding unit operable to hold, in an electrically connection, one or more
3 portable recording mediums, the recording medium being readable and writable in the
4 connection and storing digital information or a set including digital information and
5 index information relating to the digital information;
6 a selecting unit operable to select one recording medium from the one or more
7 portable recording mediums held in the connection;
8 a judging unit operable to judge whether an access to the digital information
9 stored in the selected recording medium is allowed; and
10 a displaying unit operable to display the digital information or the index
11 information recorded in the selected recording medium when the judging unit judges
12 that the access is allowed.

1 2. A recording medium holder according to Claim 1, wherein
2 the judging unit includes:
3 an input sub-unit operable to accept a user password;
4 a device password storing unit operable to store a device password in advance;
5 and
6 a password judging sub-unit operable to compare the accepted user password
7 and the stored device password, and to judge that the access is allowed when the user
8 and device passwords are identical.

1 3. A recording medium holder according to Claim 1, wherein
2 the recording medium includes a password storing unit that stores a medium
3 password in advance, and
4 the judging unit includes:

5 an input unit operable to accept a user password; and
6 a password judging unit operable to compare the accepted user password and
7 the stored medium password, and to judge that the access is allowed when the user and
8 medium passwords are identical.

1 4. A recording medium holder according to Claim 1, wherein
2 the displaying unit further displays icons each corresponding to the recording
3 mediums that are each held in the connection, and
4 the selecting unit accepts a selection of an icon from the displayed icons by
5 clicking the icon, and selects the recording mediums corresponding to the selected icon.

1 5. A recording medium holder according to Claim 1, further including:
2 a recording unit that includes a recording area for recording information
3 temporarily, wherein
4 the selecting unit is further operable to record, when the selected recording
5 medium is selected for a first time, the digital information or the set of the digital
6 information and the index information that are stored in the selected recording medium
7 in the recording unit, and
8 the displaying unit displays, when the selected recording medium is selected
9 for a second time and later, the digital information or the index information that are
10 stored in the recording unit instead of the selected recording medium.

1 6. A recording medium holder according to Claim 1, further including:
2 a text string input unit operable to accept a text string; and
3 a searching unit operable to, based on the input text string, search the digital
4 information stored in the recording medium held in the connection, and notifies a user
5 of the recording medium storing the digital information that corresponds to the input

6 text string.

1 7. An electronic card system structured by one or more portable recording
2 mediums that is readable and writable in a contactless state via radio waves, and a
3 holding device that holds the recording mediums, the electronic card system
4 comprising:

5 the recording medium that includes

6 an information storing unit operable to store digital information, and

7 a sending/receiving unit operable to transmit the digital information

8 via radio waves; and

9 the holding device that includes

10 a holding unit provided with a medium holding plate and a plurality of

11 sets that each include a transmitting unit and a lighting unit, the medium

12 holding plate being divided into partitions of an identical number with the sets,

13 the sets each being disposed so as to face a different one of the partitions, the

14 transmitting units each reading, via the radio waves, the digital information

15 from the recording medium that is held on the medium holding plate so as to

16 cover at least a part of the partition that faces the transmitting unit, and each

17 outputting the digital information to a controlling unit, and the lighting units

18 each emitting light under control of the controlling unit,

19 the controlling unit operable to receive the digital information, to

20 generate display information based on the received digital information and

21 output the generated display information, and to control a lighting unit

22 corresponding to the transmitting unit that has the digital information to emit

23 light, and

24 a displaying unit operable to receive and display the display

25 information.

1 8. An electronic card system according to Claim 7, wherein
2 the recording medium further includes an output unit operable to emit light,
3 vibrate, or make sound, and
4 the controlling unit further controls, upon receiving the digital information, the
5 output unit to emit light, vibrate, or make sound, via the radio waves through the
6 transmitting unit and the sending/receiving unit.

1 9. An electronic card system according to Claim 8, wherein
2 the controlling unit further accepts search information from a user, identify the
3 digital information which corresponds to the accepted search information, and controls
4 the lighting unit to emit light, the lighting unit facing the partition in which the
5 recording medium storing the identified digital information is held.

1 10. A holding device capable of holding one or more portable recording mediums
2 that is readable and writable in a contactless state via radio waves, wherein
3 the recording medium includes:
4 an information storing unit operable to store digital information; and
5 a sending/receiving unit operable to transmit the digital information
6 via radio waves, and
7 the holding device includes:
8 a holding unit provided with a medium holding plate and a plurality of
9 sets that each include a transmitting unit and a lighting unit, the medium
10 holding plate being divided into partitions of an identical number with the sets,
11 the sets each being disposed so as to face a different one of the partitions, the
12 transmitting units each reading, via the radio waves, the digital information
13 from the recording medium that is held on the medium holding plate so as to
14 cover at least a part of the partition that faces the transmitting unit, and each

15 outputting the digital information to a controlling unit, and the lighting units
16 each emitting light under control of the controlling unit;

17 the controlling unit operable to receive the digital information, to
18 generate display information based on the received digital information and
19 output the generated display information, and to control a lighting unit
20 corresponding to the transmitting unit that has the digital information to emit
21 light; and

22 a displaying unit operable to receive and display the display
23 information.

1 11. A holding device according to Claim 10, wherein

2 the recording medium further includes an output unit operable to emit light,
3 vibrate, or make sound, and

4 the controlling unit further controls, upon receiving the digital information, the
5 output unit to emit light, vibrate, or make sound, via the radio waves through the
6 transmitting unit and the sending/receiving unit.

1 12. A holding device according to Claim 11, wherein

2 the controlling unit further accepts search information from a user, identify the
3 digital information which corresponds to the accepted search information, and controls
4 the lighting unit to emit light, the lighting unit facing the partition in which the
5 recording medium storing the identified digital information is held.